C15 cont'd

out in the serial interrupt mode shown in FIG. 5C. This will be described in detail hereinafter.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--FIG. 5C is a flow chart illustrating direct data transmission and reception carried out between the first and second microprocessors shown in FIG. 3.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C17

--The procedure shown in FIG. 5C is carried out under the condition in which a right of data transmission is assigned to the subject microprocessor in accordance with the procedure of FIG. 5B.--

In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

C18

1. (Twice Amended) An external display device of a refrigerator comprising:

a control unit for initiating and generating a display control signal, adapted to control a display operation, and converting said display control signal into serial data, and outputting the converted display control signal;

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a display unit mounted on an outer case of the refrigerator, the display unit decoding a display control signal, initiated and generated from said control unit, and applied to said display unit, thereby executing a display operation;

a bi-directional data signal line adapted to transmit data between the display unit and the control unit in a serial manner.

3. (Twice Amended) An external display device of a refrigerator comprising:

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a display unit mounted on an outer case of the refrigerator, the display unit recognizing a key input and converting the recognized key input into serial data, while decoding a display control signal indicative of an operating state of the refrigerator, and executing a display operation based on the decoded signal;

a control unit, initiating and generating said display control signal, converting said display control signal into serial data, and outputting the converted display control signal, the control unit also decoding a key signal received from the display unit and executing a control operation based on the decoded key signal; and

a bi-directional data signal line adapted to transmit data between the display unit and the control unit in a serial manner.

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11. (Twice Amended) A method for controlling an external display device of a refrigerator adapted to display an operating state of the refrigerator while enabling a key selection for controlling the refrigerator, comprising:

determining whether a right of data transmission is assigned to the external display device or to a control unit of the refrigerator;

converting, into serial data, a signal indicative of an operation state of the refrigerator when the data transmission right is assigned to the control unit and transmitting said serial data for display without a request having been initiated from the display device;

converting, into serial data, a key input signal when the data transmission right is assigned to the external display device, transmitting said serial data to said control unit; and

decoding said serial data, and executing a control based on the decoded data.

12. (Twice Amended) A method for controlling an external display device, comprising:

determining whether or not there is data to be transmitted without determining whether data collisions have occurred;

checking whether or not a right of data transmission is assigned;

transmitting, if it is determined that there is data to be transmitted, the data when there is a data transmission right assigned without determining whether data collisions have occurred; and

executing a procedure for requesting the data transmission right when there is no data transmission right to avoid having to determine whether collisions of data have occurred.

19. (Amended) A method for a first unit of a refrigerator to transmit a request to a second unit of a refrigerator, comprising:

(a) determining if said first unit is in a data transmission mode without determining whether collisions of data have occurred;

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(b) determining if there is data to be transmitted if, in step (a), it is determined that said first unit is not in said data transmission mode;

(c) determining if said first unit has a data transmission right if, in step (b), it is determined that said first unit has said data to be transmitted; and

(d) transmitting said data to said second unit if, in step (c), it is determined that said first unit has said transmission right without determining whether collisions of data have occurred.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

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(e) determining if said first unit has a data transmission right if, in step (b), it is determined that said first unit does not have said data to be transmitted;

(f) determining if said data transmission right should be assigned to said first unit if, in step (e), it is determined that said first unit has said data transmission right; and

(g) transmitting said data to second unit if, in step (f), it is determined that said first unit should be assigned said transmission right.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

(h) determining whether said first unit received data from said second unit;

(i) determining if said first unit has a data transmission right if, in step (h), it is determined that said first unit received data from said second unit;

(j) storing said data received from said second unit if ,in step (i), it is determined that said first unit has a data transmission right;

(k) determining if further data is to be transmitted from said first unit to said second unit; and

(l) continuously executing communication if, in step (k), it is determined that further data is to be transmitted from said first unit to said second unit.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

(m) determining if said second processor is requesting data transmission right if, in step (k), it is determined that further data is not to be transmitted from said first unit to said second unit; and

(n) relinquishing data transmission right of said first unit if, in step (m), it is determined that said second processor is requesting a data transmission right.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

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(o) analyzing command received from said second unit if, in step (i), it is determined that said first unit has a data transmission right;

(p) determining if said second unit has relinquished its data transmission right; and

(q) acquiring said data transmission right if, in step (p), it is determined that said second unit has relinquished its data transmission right.

C23

27. (Amended) A method for a first unit of a refrigerator to receive and send from and to a second unit of a refrigerator, comprising:

(a) determining if said first unit is in a reception mode without determining whether collisions of data have occurred;

(b) determining if end of transmission signal is received by said first unit if, in step (a), it is determined that said first unit is in said reception mode;

(c) receiving further data if, in step (b), it is determined that said end of transmission signal has not been received; and

(d) storing said received data.

C24

31. (Amended) A control system for an appliance, comprising:

a user interface unit mounted on a door of said appliance;

a control unit mounted on a body of said appliance for initiating display of data without a request for data from said user interface unit; and

a serial communication line connecting said user interface unit and said control unit, said serial communication line being disposed through a hole of a hinge of said door.